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WAR FOOD ADMINISTRATION  
OFFICE OF DISTRIBUTION  
MIDWEST REGION  
5 South Wabash Avenue  
Chicago 3, Illinois

June 20, 1944

Fact Sheet on Arkansas and Oklahoma Snap Beans

The Problem:

The production of snap beans in Arkansas and Oklahoma has been greatly expanded. Due to a labor shortage in canneries of those states and the expected increase in production, much of this vital protein crop will be lost unless that quantity which cannot be canned is moved to and consumed on the fresh markets in the Mississippi valley states. Between 500 to 1,000 cars of snap beans are estimated to be in dire need of a fresh market outlet this season.

The Objective:

To inform the consumers in Louisiana, Texas, Mississippi, Missouri, Kansas, Illinois, Indiana, Western Kentucky, Western Tennessee, Arkansas, and Oklahoma, of the snap bean supply situation in the latter two states and enlist their help in relieving the fresh market of that quantity of the crop which cannot be canned. Consumers may cooperate by serving more snap beans daily during the flush production period and by means of home preservation.

Timing:

The bulk of the fresh crop will reach the fresh markets between June 20 and July 1, so all promotion should be concentrated during this period.

The Background:

Last year Arkansas and Oklahoma shipped 69 cars; 32 cars in 1942 and 46 cars in 1941. Beans produced by the two states in the past have been mainly for canning purposes but because of the greatly expanded production and the canning industry's inability to take care of the entire crop due to the aforementioned manpower difficulties, much of the crop must be utilized on the fresh market.

WFA Authorizes Purchases:

The War Food Administration has authorized its field personnel to purchase surplus supplies of snap beans in Arkansas and Oklahoma. Prices of good quality snap beans, which have been holding at moderate levels, are expected to decline sharply in the mid-western markets when the harvesting in Arkansas and Oklahoma becomes heavy.

Nutritive Value of Beans:

Arkansas and Oklahoma produce principally the Landrith, a round type of snap bean which like most beans is a rich source of protein which is so necessary to give our servicemen and civilians the necessary energy, strength and general good health for victory. Snap beans are also rich in vitamins A, B, C, and some G, and are a good source of iron and calcium.

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